



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011

No. 73

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Shepherd of our souls, You enable us to lie down in green pastures, as You restore our hopes. Let Your love fill and rule our Senators as they seek to serve You by serving this land we love. May they be willing to pray for one another with the awareness that they are wrapped in a blanket of mutuality and are the heirs of a common destiny. Lord, empower them to live such exemplary lives that people will see their good works and glorify Your name. Relieve their necessities, lighten their burdens, as they cheerfully submit to Your gracious will.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 25, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E.

GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, with the majority controlling the first half, Republicans controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 990, which is the legislative vehicle for the PATRIOT Act extension.

I filed cloture on the motion to concur with respect to the PATRIOT Act extension last night. Under the rule, the cloture vote will occur 1 hour after we convene tomorrow. Additionally, we are working to reach an agreement to vote on the House Republican budget. We will notify Senators when an agreement is reached and votes are scheduled.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1057

Mr. REID. Madam President, S. 1057 is at the desk. It is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1057) to repeal the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit.

Mr. REID. I would object to any further proceedings with regard to this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

### MEDICARE

Mr. REID. Madam President, for weeks Americans old and young have been speaking out against the Republican plan to kill Medicare. It is not just Democrats. Republicans have been speaking out against it too.

Newt Gingrich called it a radical plan and "right-wing social engineering." Several Republican Senators have similarly spoken out, calling it what it really is, a plan that would shatter a cornerstone of our society and break our promise to the elderly and to the sick.

Last night, though, the most important voices were heard. American voters had their first chance to do something about it. They went to the polls and resoundingly rejected that plan and the candidate who ran on that plan's promise to dismantle Medicare.

In a special congressional election in upstate New York, the Republican plan to kill Medicare was the No. 1 issue. It was the No. 2 issue. It was the No. 3 issue. It is what the voters most cared about and were most scared about, as well they should be.

Here is what it would do: It would turn over seniors' health to profit-hungry insurance companies. It would let bureaucrats decide what tests and treatments seniors get. It would ask seniors to pay more for their health care in exchange for fewer benefits. That is a bad deal all around.

What is telling is not just that the voters rejected this plan, it is that the Republican candidate pushing the Republican plan to kill Medicare was rejected in a very Republican district.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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